

MR. TOPHAM: Thanks for waiting for me.

My name's Gordon Topham, I'm a county commissioner in Sevier County, Utah. My grandkids call me Commissioner Gordon, so I have a good friend named Batman and I've got a bat phone and I can solve this problem in one phone call.

I, too, had a bunch of stuff that I will provide you with, but I'd just like to talk about a couple of things.

Paint a picture for our county is what I want you to do, because you need to understand, our county government is mainly based on property tax. Property tax on big companies like our oil company and our SUFCO Mine is assessed by the State of Utah and it's way out in the future. So they're in the process of assessing that right now. And because of this moratorium, we still have tied up the Green Hollows lease, which is very important to us. Right now, the assessed value of our mine is very low because the amount of time that they have coal without that is very low.

This year, we're going to take a hit of half of their value. Now, if we had that coal lease last week, that would be okay, because the life would be extended and the value of that. That's sort of one of the things that happens to us that I think when you do a policy like this or a study like this, it really affects a lot of people in ways that you may not understand.

A second thing I'd just like to mention is, you know, we've talked about climate change and I agree. I mean I look at what's happened from when I was a kid until now. My career was as a park ranger. I managed two different prehistoric state park sites, Edge of the Cedars, which was Anasazi Indian; the Fremont Indian State Park, which was the Fremont Indians. Both of them lived about the same time. And through archeological evidence, we look and we see through a tree ring dating, which helps us understand the climate at that time. About

the time that both of these groups abandoned their area or something happened to them, they disappeared, there was about a 12- to 15-year drought that took place there. So that was climate change. They had had lots of water and then they had to leave or something happened that they seem to have disappeared. And so that was back in a time that that was obviously very serious climate change.

I don't think they drove cars, I don't think they burned coal. They might have. I mean you might have gathered a rock to put around your fire and it caught fire. So, you know, to talk about climate change, I think that's natural. I have a hard time blaming that on the fact that I breathe out carbon dioxide, that somehow that affects my environment. Thank you.